

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10222-10271

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 9-57631-7TH NR 9, 8TH NR 9, 9TH NR 9

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : DAVIS, GEORGE E. JR.
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

TITLE :

DATE : 06/25/1974
PAGES : 65

SUBJECTS :

MAB, ASSOC, ACA, CUBAN EXILE LEADER, TORRIENTE,
JOSE ELIAS, ASSA, THREATS, VICTIMS

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4

CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/29/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : INC RPT, A/T

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 54463 Date:
10-12-2017

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SJ 9-909

8 - San Juan
(2 - 9-909)
2 - 105 - 16186
1 - 105-12785)
1 - 105-2856
(1 - 105-RAUL BORANDELA)
(1 - USA, San Juan, Puerto Rico)
ATTN: AUSA JUAN A. PEREZ
(1 - 105-11343)

~~ARTURO RODRIGUEZ VIVES - VICTIM;~~
~~JOSE ELIAS de la TORRIENTE, aka~~
~~Jose E. Torriente, VICTIM;~~
~~REINALDO VERGARA VICTIM~~

REFERENCE

Miami Report of SA GEORGE E. DAVIS, Jr. dated
6/25/74. 20134 U

- P -

The cover pages of this report are classified
confidential to protect the identities of SJ 492-S, SJ 1438-
PSI, and SJ 1441-PSI

LEADS

MIAMI

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

Forward photograph and identifying data re RAUL
BARANDELA to San Juan, if available. BARANDELA reportedly
is close associate of ORLANDO BOSCH

SAN JUAN

AT SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- B -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SJ 9-909

1. Continue investigation of activities of ORLANDO BOSCH, RAUL BARANDELA, and ENRIQUE NUNEZ in San Juan, Puerto Rico inasmuch as it appears possible motive for sending "ZERO" letters to San Juan "ZERO" victims exists re these individuals.

2. Will continue contacts with [SJ 492-S, SJ 1438-PSI, and SJ 1441-PSI for information regarding this matter.]
(X)(u)

3. Reinterview ENRIQUE NUNEZ, Director, Replica Newspaper, San Juan, Puerto Rico re visit of ORLANDO BOSCH to San Juan and knowledge re "ZERO" letters.

4. Locate and conduct background checks re MANUEL DE DIOS and IGNACIO AIZCOITRA, San Juan, former distributor of Impacto newspaper and interview them re "ZERO" and Cuban related matters.

5. Interview ENRIQUE JORDAN re "ZERO" letter information.

ADMINISTRATIVE

INFORMANTS

(W) [SJ 492-S, SJ 1438-PSI and SJ 1441-PSI are all victims in captioned matter. Information from them regarding "ZERO" letters is set forth openly in this report inasmuch as failure to do so openly would tend more to identify than to conceal their identities.]
(X)(u)

(C) On 5/3/74 [SJ 492-S] disclosed that he had recently been in Miami and saw "ZERO" marks and slogans on restroom walls in Miami. He said that two theories re "ZERO" exist. One was that they were a group of pro-Castro Cubans acting under the guise of anti-Castro activities while eliminating anti-Castro leaders of the Cuban exile community. The other theory was that they were a group of extreme anti-Castro Cubans who felt current anti-Castro Cuban leaders were betraying the anti-Castro movement through their inactivity and financial endeavors.
(X)(u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SJ 9-909

(S) [On 5/9/74 SJ 492-S] disclosed that ANTON CONSTANZO PALAU was known to him as an individual who had escaped from Cuba via Guantanamo. It had been reported that while at Guantanamo in the room where CONSTANZO was sleeping one night another individual was ill and groaning. CONSTANZO had been reported to have struck the ill individual on the head with a pipe, knocking him unconscious so that CONSTANZO could go to sleep.] He advised that CONSTANZO was reportedly of an extremely violent nature. CONSTANZO had reportedly been involved in a shoot out in Miami, Florida wherein he was seriously wounded. He was also a fugitive from justice at one time and had also been reportedly involved in the burning of a gasoline station at Miami, Florida. He advised that CONSTANZO was currently employed at the counter of Air Canada at the Miami International Airport. [SJ 492-S] was of the opinion that CONSTANZO did not put his name on a "ZERO" letter and expressed the opinion that the appearance of CONSTANZO's name on the "ZERO" letter to Casa Cuba was an attempt by someone, possibly for revenge at CONSTANZO or to direct the blame to CONSTANZO. CONSTANZO has a brother by the name of AVELINO CONSTANZO PALAU who reportedly came from Miami to San Juan in 3/74.] X (u)

X On 5/17/74 [SJ 492-S] advised that a Cuban MARIANO ROCCA GUTIERREZ, Waldorf Towers, Room 707, Isla Verde, Puerto Rico had openly expressed resentment towards Cubans who have gained wealth. ROCCA has failed in his business endeavors while watching other Cubans rise financially. ROCCA was a past Director of Lions International many years ago at San Juan, Puerto Rico and currently is an insurance salesman for the Confederation Canada, Banco Popular Center in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico. ROCCA had in the past spoken out against JERONIMO ESTEVEZ and MANUEL RAY. ROCCA was an Adjutant Captain to NINO DIAZ, a leader of the Cuban Liberation Army at the time of the CASTRO takeover in Cuba but after a confrontation with CASTRO, ROCCA left Cuba and moved to Puerto Rico. ROCCA had opened his home in San Juan to the housing of extreme radical leaders of the Cuban movement, including many Cubans who were formerly closely involved with CASTRO in the Sierra Maestra prior to the Cuban revolution. (u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- D -

COVER PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SJ 9-909

[X] [On 6/5/74 [SJ 492-S] advised that he had determined
that ATON CONSTANZO PALAU's brother, AVELINO CONSTANZO PALAU,
was in San Juan on or about 3/20/74.] CONSTANZO also has a
cousin, last name PALAU, who owned the Calimano Supermarket
in Guayama, Puerto Rico. LA (X)(u)

On 7/15/74 SJ 1441-PSI disclosed that he had learned
that between 2/24/74 and the end of 3/74 Doctor ORLANDO BOSCH
of Miami, Florida, RAUL BARANDELA, aka Commander Barandela,
who formerly resided in San Juan but was now residing in
Miami, and ENRIQUE NUNEZ, the Director of the Replica
Newspaper, San Juan, Puerto Rico had attempted to collect
money from the leaders of the Cuban movement at San Juan,
Puerto Rico. The purpose of the collection was for financial
support for the Internationalization of the General Fight
Against Cuba. SJ 1441-PSI said he personally was contacted
on the night of 2/24/74 by BOSCH, BARANDELA and NUNEZ and
was asked by BOSCH to offer financial support for the
Internationalization of the General Fight Against Cuba to
countries outside of the United States and against countries
cooperating with Cuba. BOSCH did not provide source with
further details and source did not offer any financial
assistance to the three men. SJ 1441-PSI said he was of the
opinion that by Internationalization of the General Fight
Against Cuba BOSCH may personally have implied recent bombings
of the Cuban Embassy in foreign countries. SJ 1441-PSI
also felt personally that BOSCH, NUNEZ and BARANDELA may
have had motives for capitalizing on "ZERO" letters sent
to individual Cuban leaders who had not cooperated with
their requests for financial aid and because of personal
conflict between NUNEZ and BARANDELA against the San Juan
victims of the "ZERO" letters.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- E -

COVER PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SJ 9-909

On 6/5/74 SJ 492-S disclosed that during 3/74 Doctor ORLANDO BOSCH of Miami, Florida had made three attempts to contact him at his office but that the source had avoided BOSCH and had not returned BOSCH's calls. He did not know what BOSCH wanted at the time. ~~(X)(u)~~

On 6/11/74 SJ 1438-PSI who has been contacted insufficient number of times to determine reliability advised that on an unrecalled date in 4/74 he traveled from Miami to San Juan. When he boarded the airplane at Miami he encountered Doctor ORLANDO BOSCH on the same airplane. He spoke to BOSCH and recalled that the conversation concerned errors made in the Cuban movement but that he did not discuss politics at length. BOSCH did not elicit any funds from him nor did he discuss any of his activities. The source advised that BOSCH and RAUL BARANDELA were good friends. SJ 1438-PSI recalled that he had communicated to BOSCH that any activities which would bring repression against the Cuban community in the United States should be avoided but provided no further details regarding this matter. BOSCH told the source that he was traveling to San Juan to see old friends. SJ 1438-PSI disclosed that this was about one and one-half months before the Casa Cuba, San Juan, Puerto Rico received the "ZERO" letter. The source advised that he and ENRIQUE NUNEZ, the Director of the Replica Newspaper bore no love for each other and in the past had heated political confrontations. ~~(X)(u)~~

On 7/16/74 SJ 492-S disclosed that he had determined that the Impacto Newspaper of Miami, Florida was distributed in San Juan, Puerto Rico until about 11/72. The distribution was handled by MANUEL DE DIOS and IGNACIO AIZCOITIA. He said IGNACIO AIZCOITIA was known as a Cuban organizer at San Juan, Puerto Rico. He also disclosed that a car salesman ENRIQUE JORDAN, Eighth Street, Block 16 Number 11, Santa Rosa, Bayamon, Puerto Rico, had specific information about the "ZERO" letter received by Casa Cuba. SJ 492-S said that he knew of no reason JORDAN should know of the Casa Cuba "ZERO" letter and felt that JORDAN should be approached regarding "ZERO". ~~(X)(u)~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- F* -

COVER PAGE

MM 105-22094, MM 9-2690

MIAMI

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

1. Will report FBI Laboratory examinations
in this case.

2. Will continue investigation to obtain evidence
concerning alleged involvement of LUIS TORNES and FERNANDO
CARRANDI in authoring the "Zero" communications.

3. Maintain close contact with logical informants
and maintain close liaison with Organized Crime Bureau, Dade
County Public Safety Department, and Miami Police Department.

4. Attempt to obtain typewriting, printing, ink
and paper specimens which are in possession of TORNES, or
available to him, for Laboratory examination. Will conduct
the same investigation with regard to CARRANDI, who operates
a printing shop.

ADMINISTRATIVE

On 5/21/74, MM 1550-KS, who has been closely associated in the past with LUIS NORBERTO TORNES GARCIA, aka Luis Tornes, FBI #407 171 E, publisher of "Impacto," which ceased publication two or three months ago in Miami, reported that on the previous Friday, 5/17/74, TORNES admitted to him that he had sent four "Zero" threatening letters to a number of individuals, including TOMAS GARCIA FUSTE and MAX LESNICK. TORNES also disclosed that FERNANDO CARRANDI, who operates the AIP Printing Shop, Beacom Boulevard, Miami, Florida, collaborated with TORNES in the preparation of these "Zero" letters. TORNES said that it was necessary for him to continue with the campaign of sending out threatening letters, but he did not disclose the identities of any additional victims. MM 1150-KS said that CARRANDI, according to TORNES, hates MAX LESNICK. (u)

C.
COVER PAGE

MM 105-22094, NM 9-2690

MM 1550-KS said that TORNES and LESNICK have been feuding for several years and approximately one year ago MAX LESNICK, accompanied by several of his associates, attacked TORNES and one of his companions, ORLANDO GARCIA, on the sidewalk in front of "Impacto." "Impacto" has been very hostile toward LESNICK's "Replica." MM 1150-KS said that TORNES blames LESNICK for being responsible for advertising being withdrawn from "Impacto" so that "Impacto" had to go out of business two or three months ago. TORNES is presently working as a busboy at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami, Florida. X(u)

MM 1550-KS said that TORNES was formerly head of the "secret Cuban Army, Miami" several years ago when that organization was engaged in bombings, extortion and other acts of terrorism. X(u)

Miami files reflect that FERNANDO JESUS CARRANDI VALDEZ, aka Fernando Carrandi, was born 5/10/25 at Santa Clara, Las Villas Province, Cuba, and had Alien Registration Number A12 410 957. He had been employed by a number of publications during the period from 1962 to 1970. Y

MM 1550-KS said that other close associates of TORNES who share a similar hatred for LESNICK are LUIS ORTEGA, a Cuban newsman; MARIETA FANDINO, publisher of "La Verdad," Miami; and AUREA POGGIO, a Cuban newswoman in Miami. X(u)

MM 1550-KS said that TORNES is a professional revolutionary skilled in intrigue and very shrewd, cunning and deceptive in his operations. X(u)

On 5/13/74, a bomb exploded at the offices of "Replica" in Miami. On 5/27/74 another bomb exploded at the offices of the Latin Chamber of Commerce, Miami. Immediately after each bombing, the "Union Mundial Anti Comunista" (UMA) claimed credit for each of these bombings by typewritten communications sent to the news media claiming credit and

D.
COVER PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MM 105-22094, MM 9-2690

threatening Cuban merchants who distribute copies of "Replica."

MM 1550-KS has furnished information reflecting that TORNES is responsible for these UMA bombings and communications. The UMA communications and bombings surfaced shortly after the "Zero" letters ceased being sent. ~~(u)~~

The Miami Office has opened a separate investigation concerning "UMA" (WORLD ANTI COMMUNIST UNION), Miami 105-22159. Several Cuban markets selling "Replica" have been vandalized and TORNES has informed MM 1550-KS that his campaign against "Replica" and the merchants who sell "Replica" will be continued. ~~(u)~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E.*
COVER PAGE